Tranquillizing Effect of Pictures.—Every good picture, by which I mean every picture that has something good in it, is not mere surface and colour; it has a countenance, like the countenance of a friend or lover, of which certain expressions are revealed only to certain eyes at certain moments. Then there are the associations of long acquaintance; accidental gleams of lamp or sunshine have lighted up the shadowy nooks, and startled the eye with revelations of hidden beauty and meaning: or, in hours of lassitude and sorrow, hours when the "fretful stir unprofitable" of this painful actual world, has hung heavy on the spirit, the light breaking from behind the trees of far-off distance, stretching away, and leading the fancy after it, till it melts into Elysium; or rural groups, revels of satyrs, or clouds, or face of pure-eyed virgin or serene saint, has arrested the troubled course of thought and stamped a consecration on certain pictures which it would be a pleasure to see commemorated, but which no accidental visitor can enter into. "I cannot express to you," said a most distinguished statesman of the present day, as we stood in the midst of his beautiful pictures, I "cannot express to you my feelings of tranquillity, of restoration, with which, in an interval of harassing official business, I look round me here." And while he spoke in the slow quiet tone of a weary man, he turned his eyes on a forest scene of Ruysdael, and gazed on it for a minure or two in silence—a silence I was careful not to break—as if its cool dewy verdure, its deep seclusions, its transparant waters stealing through the glade, had sent refreshment into his very soul.—*Mrs. Johnson's Companion to Picture Galleries of London.*

Illusive Imitations in Art.—Menge says justly, "all the refinement of the art consists in selecting the beautiful and the necessary, and in leaving out the superfluous and the minute." But we should remember, however, that in proportion as the work becomes refined and abstract, it will have fewer admirers; while the pleasure afforded by illusive imitation, even when employed on the most ordinary subjects, mere transcripts of still-life, will always render that property of our art the most generally attractive: all are in some degree judges of it; the cobbler, in his own line, may triumph in criticising Appelles; and for this reason, the judicious artist, even in his loftiest flights of imagination, or highest attempts at expression, will endeavour to introduce some portion of those qualities which are intelligible and agreeable to all, as a passport for those of a more intellectual character, which will ever be confined to the few.—*H. Howard's Lectures.*

TENDERS.

Delivered for the erection of a new Grammar School and Master's House, at the Litten, Newbury:—

Woodman	£1,459	0	0
Hanson	1,274	0	0
Harrison	1,265	0	0
Salisbury	1,195	10	0
Ader	1,153	0	0
Dredge	1,070	0	0
Stratton (accepted)	919	0	0

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

Held during the ensuing week.

Monday, May 29.—Institute of Architects, 8 P.M.
Tuesday, 30.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.
Wednesday, 31.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.
Thursday, June 1.—Society of Antiquaries, 8 P.M.
Friday, 2.—Archæological Institute, 4 P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*J. C.*" would find Mr. P. we believe at Blackwall Railway office. As to first question, value of land differs so greatly, we can give no answer.

"*G. H. S.*" was overlooked. The position of stringcourses is very various. The stone corbels were probably intended to carry the main timbers of aisle roof.

"*T. O.*"—Do not quit a certainty for an uncertainty.

"*C. B.*"—If the drawings are left for us, in confidence, they shall be safely returned.

"*A. B. D.*"—The Portland Cement would answer his purpose.

"*Conrad Garden Surveyor of Pavements.*"—Five communications on this subject since our last, shew how strongly the late election is objected to.

"*R. K.*"—Excuse our silence.

Received.—"Archi" (shall be inquired into); "D. C.," Sheffield, and "G. H.," Birmingham (will find what they want advertised); "10, C." (we hope to engrave the view); "G. C. W." (what is there to ensure the return of the vulcanized rubber into its proper place?); "A Citizen," "J. R." (has been attended to, we understand); "S. S." (thanks, though we cannot find space for the lines); "E. A.," "A Real Surveyor," "Rate Payer," "T. M.," "J. W.," "P. S.," "Architectural Student," "Michael Angelo," "Yorks," "J. P." (next week).

"*Books, Prices, and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO DRAUGHTSMEN AND CIVIL ENGINEERS.

H. MORRELL, BLACK LEAD PENCIL MANUFACTURER, No. 128, Fleet-street, London.

These Pencils are prepared in various degrees of hardness and shades.

H H H H for drawing on wood.	F F light and shading.
H H H for architectural use.	F for general use.
H H for engineering.	B black for shading.
H for sketching.	B B ditto ditto.
H B hard and black for drawing.	B B B ditto ditto.
M medium.	B B B B ditto ditto.

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CAST-IRON PIPES, IRON WORK FOR OVENS, &c.

RAIN PIPES, &c.—F. A. TIDDEMAN, Purfleet Wharf, Earl-street, City, near Blackfriars-bridge, keeps a large stock of Rain Pipes, Heads, Shoes, Elbows, &c., half round and O. G. Gutters, Socket Pipes for Water or Gas Flanch Pipes, Sash Weights, and other Castings: Iron Work for Baker's Ovens of every description, fitted complete, to be had in sets or in parts—Prices equal to all competition. Contracts taken to any extent.

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TO BRICK AND TILE MAKERS.

THE AINSLIE BRICK and TILE MACHINE COMPANY (James Smith, Esq., of Deanston, Chairman) invite attention to their improved Brick and Tile Machines, which are to be seen at work at Alperton, and at the Company's office, 193a, Piccadilly, from Tuesday, to Friday, p.m. Mr. Robert Scrivener, who has been appointed manager on the farm of Mr. John Ainslie, will shew the machines at the works at Alperton, to be had by applying at the Railway station of the London and North-Western Railway, and to miles of the Ealing station of the Great Western Railway; also at the Polytechnic Institution, Regent-street, London.—All communications to be addressed to Mr. WILLIAM GORDON, Secretary, at the office of the Company, London, 193a, Piccadilly.—March 1, 1848.

These machines may also be seen at Mr. Shiels, Leith-walk, Edinburgh; Mr. Robert Boyle's, Ayr; Mr. Lawrence Hills, 126, Buchanan-street, Glasgow; Mr. Robert Charles, Mill-hill, Leeds; Messrs. Penny and Finch's Pottery, Lye, Staffordshire; Messrs. Drummond and Son's, Dublin; and Mr. John Cantor, Newton Limavady, County Derry.

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